

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

APRIL 13, 2004

The County's Department of Health Services, Public Health, recently issued its publication, Key Indicators of Health by Service Planning Area (SPA). This document contains health information in which the data for each SPA is compared with the County as a whole and with the goals of Healthy People 2010. SPAs which are significantly above or below the overall County figure for each statistic are highlighted.

An alarming statistic contained in this report is the African-American infant mortality rate for the Antelope Valley. With a rate of 28.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, the rate in the Antelope Valley for African-Americans was more than twice the African-American rate for the County of 11.4 and more than five times the overall rate for the County (for all ethnicities) of 5.4.

It is vital that we determine the causes of this statistically-significant disparate rate and take concerted action to address this disparity. Resolution of this problem can only be achieved through a collaboration of the Health Department with community providers and programs.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Directors of Health Services and Public Health to immediately convene a working group of Public Health staff and community agencies to address the alarming rate of infant mortality among African-Americans in the Antelope Valley. The working group will undertake a review of the infant deaths, assess resources available to improve prenatal care, and develop and provide recommendations to the Board within 60 days.

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